

An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



Mr. Colm Murphy  
South Dublin County Council  
County Hall  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24  
D24 YNN5

Our Ref: MO-00147-2019  
Date: 3rd April 2019

Dear Mr. Murphy,

I refer to your correspondence in relation to the Motion Agreed at the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 of South Dublin County Council regarding Community Centres, reference no. M7/0319.

Funding for staff in community centres is provided through a number of public-funded schemes, including this Department's Community Services Programme (CSP). The CSP supports around 400 community organisations to provide local services through a social enterprise model. Funding is provided as a fixed annual contribution to the cost of a manager and an agreed number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, with €32,000 per annum provided for a manager and €19,033 per annum for each FTE position. This contribution must be co-funded by the organisations concerned from other sources, for example, from income received from the public use of their facilities and services. All internal operational matters, including general employment issues and salary levels relating to CSP supported posts are solely matters for the Boards of those organisations to manage as the respective employers.

That said, in January 2019 the Minister announced a *CSP Support Fund* which provides an additional contribution to CSP supported organisations to help them meet the cost of the minimum wage. Over €1 million is being provided under the fund to more than 260 organisations. An additional €1,100 per FTE is being provided to qualifying organisations.

The Department recently commenced a review of the CSP. The review will inform decisions on the future shape and structure of the programme. The review will take six months and should be completed in early Autumn 2019. Therefore, there are no immediate plans to change programme criteria pending completion of this review.



Funding may also be provided for staffing in community centres through schemes supported by other Government Departments, for example, the Rural Social Scheme and the Community Employment Programme managed by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

The Minister would like to take this opportunity to commend the work being carried out by the CSP supported organisations in providing excellent services and facilities throughout the country.

Yours Sincerely,

Anthony McCarthy  
Private Secretary to Mr. Michael Ring T.D.  
Minister for Rural and Community Development